

MUNICIPAL CHIROPRACTIC REGULATIONS

CHAPTER 48 CHIROPRACTIC

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4800 GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 4800.1 This chapter shall apply to applicants for and holders of a license to practice chiropractic.
- 4800.2 Chapters 40 (Health Occupations: General Rules), 41 (Health Occupations: Administrative Procedures) of this title shall supplement this chapter.
- 4800.3 Notwithstanding anything in Chapter 40 to the contrary, the Board shall accept applications for licensure by one of the following means:
- (a) Examination;
 - (b) Reactivation of an inactive license;
 - (c) Reinstatement of an expired, suspended, or revoked license; or
 - (d) Reciprocity pursuant to § 4014.
- 4800.4 An applicant for a license to practice chiropractic shall submit with a complete application three (3) letters from chiropractors licensed in a jurisdiction of the United States in good standing who have personal knowledge of the applicant's abilities and qualifications to practice chiropractic.

4801 TERM OF LICENSE

- 4801.1 Subject to § 4801.2, a license issued pursuant to this chapter shall expire at 12:00 midnight of December 31st of each even-numbered year.
- 4801.2 If the Director changes the renewal system pursuant to § 4006.3 of Chapter 40 of this title, a license issued pursuant to this chapter shall expire at 12:00 midnight of

the last day of the month of the birthdate of the holder of the license, or other date established by the Director.

4802 EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

4802.1 Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, an applicant shall furnish proof satisfactory to the Board, in accordance with § 504(b) of the Act, D. C. Official Code § 3-1205.04(b) (1985), that the applicant has met the following requirements:

(a) Has successfully completed two (2) years of education at the baccalaureate level at a college or university accredited at the time of the applicant's attendance by the Secretary of the United States Department of Education or the Council on Postsecondary Education; and

(b) Has graduated from an educational program in the practice of chiropractic that:

(1) Consists of four (4) academic years of study;

(2) Includes five hundred (500) hours of practical clinical experience under the supervision of a chiropractic; and

(3) Is accredited at the time of the applicant's graduation by:

(A) The Council on Chiropractic Education (CCE); or

(B) The Straight Chiropractic Academic Standards Association (SCASA);
or

(C) Any other specialized chiropractic accrediting agency listed with the U.S. Department of Education.

4802.2 An applicant shall submit with a completed application a certified transcript and an official certificate of graduation from educational institution(s) to the Board.

4803 [RESERVED]

4804 NATIONAL EXAMINATION

4804.1 To qualify for a license by examination, an applicant shall receive a passing score on an examination administered by the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners (NBCE) (the national examination).

- 4804.2 An applicant shall submit with a completed application the applicant's national examination results, certified by the NBCE.
- 4804.3 The passing score on the national examination shall be the score recommended by the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners.
- 4804.4 The Board shall only consider examination results after the applicant has passed all parts of the examination.

4805 DISTRICT EXAMINATION

- 4805.1 To qualify for a license under this chapter, an applicant, without exception, shall receive a passing score on a written and practical examination developed by the Committee (the District examination) in the following areas:
- (a) Technique;
 - (b) X-ray interpretation and diagnosis;
 - (c) Physical examination including neurological and orthopedic diagnostic testing;
 - (d) Instrumentation;
 - (e) Chiropractic philosophy; and
 - (f) District law.
- 4805.2 An applicant shall pass all parts of the national examination to be eligible to take the District examination.
- 4805.3 The District examination may include questions on the following:
- (a) The District of Columbia Health Occupations Revision Act of 1985, D.C. Law 6-99, D.C. Official Code § 3-1201.01(2001);
 - (b) This chapter; and
 - (c) Title 17 Chapters 40 and 41 of the DCMR.
- 4805.4 The Board shall supply each applicant for examination by the Board with copies of the laws and rules on which the applicant will be tested thirty (30) days prior to the examination.
- 4805.5 A passing score on the District examination shall be seventy-five percent (75%) on each test that forms a part of examination.

4806 CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

- 4806.1 Subject to § 4806.2, this section shall apply to applicants for the renewal, reactivation, or reinstatement of a license for a term expiring March 31, 1990, and for subsequent terms.
- 4806.2 This section shall not apply to applicants for an initial license by examination, nor shall it apply to applicants for the first renewal of a license granted by examination.
- 4806.3 A continuing education credit shall be valid only if it is part of a program specified in § 4807.
- 4806.4 An applicant for renewal of a license shall submit proof pursuant to § 4806.7 of having completed twenty-four (24) hours of approved continuing education credit during the two-year (2) period preceding the date the license expires.
- 4806.5 To qualify for a license, a person in inactive status within the meaning of § 511 of the Act, D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.11 (1985) who submits an application to reactivate a license shall submit proof pursuant to § 4806.7 of having completed twelve (12) hours of approved continuing education credit for each license year after December 31, 1990, that the applicant was in inactive status.
- 4806.6 To qualify for a license, an applicant for reinstatement of a license shall submit proof pursuant to § 4806.7 of having completed twelve (12) hours of approved continuing education credit for each year after December 31, 1990, that the applicant was not licensed.
- 4806.7 An applicant under this section shall prove completion of required continuing education credits by submitting with the application the following information with respect to each program:
- (a) The name and address of the sponsor of the program;
 - (b) The name of the program, its location, a description of the subject matter covered, and the names of the instructors;
 - (c) The dates on which the applicant attended the program;
 - (d) The hours of credit claimed; and
 - (e) Verification by the sponsor of completion by signature or stamp.

- 4806.8 An applicant for renewal of a license who fails to submit proof of having completed continuing education requirements by the date the license expires may renew the license up to sixty (60) days after expiration by submitting proof pursuant to § 4806.7 and by paying the required additional late fee.
- 4806.9 Upon submitting proof and paying the late fee, the applicants shall be deemed to have possessed a valid license during the period between the expiration of the license and the submission of the required documentation and payment of the late fee.
- 4806.10 If an applicant for renewal of a license fails to submit proof of completion of continuing education requirements or pay the late fee within sixty (60) days after the expiration of applicant's license, the license shall be considered to have lapsed on the date of expiration.
- 4806.11 The Board may, in its discretion, grant an extension of the sixty (60) day period to renew after expiration if the applicant's failure to submit proof of completion was for good cause. For purposes of this section, "good cause" includes the following:
- (a) Serious and protracted illness of the applicant;
 - (b) The death or serious and protracted illness of a member of the applicant's immediate family.

4807 APPROVED CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

- 4807.1 The Board shall accept for credit continuing education programs provided or sponsored by the following:
- (a) A college of chiropractic accredited by the CCE or SCASA;
 - (b) The American Chiropractic Association;
 - (c) The Federation of Straight Chiropractic Organizations;
 - (d) The International Chiropractors Association; or
 - (e) Approved by the District of Columbia Board of Chiropractic.

4808 CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

- 4808.1 The Board may grant continuing education credit for whole hours only, with a minimum of fifty (50) minutes constituting one (1) credit hour.

4809-4810 [RESERVED]**4811 SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR CHIROPRACTIC AND CERTIFICATION FOR ANCILLARY PROCEDURES**

4811.1 A chiropractor who is licensed to practice in the District of Columbia under the provisions of this chapter may provide the following chiropractic services:

- (a) Locating, diagnosing, and analyzing subluxated vertebrae as follows:
 - (1) By x-ray of the spinal column;
 - (2) By physical examination; and
 - (3) By employing other non-invasive procedures such as MRI and CAT scan;
- (b) Correcting vertebral subluxation displacement by applying specific localized force to the spine;
- (c) Advising patients about diet, exercise and stress;
- (d) Referring patients for specialized diagnostic testing, which may be necessary for chiropractic treatment or patient safety;
- (e) Referring patients to other healthcare practitioners as deemed necessary by the chiropractor; and
- (f) Diagnosing and treating bodily articulations by means of manipulation or adjustments.

4811.2 A chiropractor who is certified by the Board to perform ancillary procedures pursuant to § 4811.3 may perform any physiotherapy for which the chiropractor has received specialized training at a program or institution listed in § 4807.1.

4811.3 Except as provided in § 4811.1, a chiropractor shall satisfy the following requirements to qualify for ancillary procedure certification:

- (a) Achieve a score equal to or greater than the score recommended by the NBCE as a passing score; and
- (b) Achieve a score of seventy-five percent (75%) on an examination administered by the D.C. Board of Chiropractic, which tests the applicant's knowledge and physical skills in physiotherapy.

4811.4 A chiropractor applying for certification under this section shall submit the chiropractor's examination results, certified by the NBCE, to the Board.

4812 [REPEALED]**4899 DEFINITIONS**

4899.1 For purposes of this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings ascribed:

Applicant – A person applying for a license to practice chiropractic or certification to practice ancillary procedures under this chapter.

Board – The D. C. Board of Chiropractic, established by §216 of the Official Health Occupation Revision Act, D.C. Official Code § 3-1202.16 (2001).

CAT Scan – A diagnostic, medical, radiological scan in which cross-sectional images of a part of the body are formed through computerized axial tomography and shown on a computer screen.

Chiropractor – A person licensed to practice chiropractic under the Health Occupations Revision Act, D.C. Code § 3-1205.01 et seq.

Committee – The Advisory Committee on Chiropractic, established by § 203(c) of the Act, D.C. Official Code § 3-1202.03(c)(1985).

MRI – An imaging technique that uses electromagnetic radiation to obtain images of the body's soft tissues by subjecting the body to a powerful magnetic field, allowing tiny signals from atomic nuclei to be detected and then processed and converted into images by a computer.

NBCE – The National Board of Chiropractic Examiners.

Spinal adjustment/manipulation – A specific thrust applied to a subluxated vertebra utilizing parts of the vertebra and contiguous structures as levers to directionally correct that particular articular malposition, and thus influencing neural integrity in that area.

Subluxation – A complex of functional and/or structural changes that occur in the spinal column that comprises neural integrity and thus may influence organ system function and general health.

4899.2 The definitions in § 4099 of Chapter 40 of this title are incorporated by reference into and apply to this chapter, except that the definition of “Board” shall mean the D.C. Board of Chiropractic.